

## LACK PLAN FOR U.S. ROAD FUND

MacDonald Urges Program to Distribute 100 Million to States Next Year.

The entire Federal road-building program will suffer a serious setback unless Governmental action is taken during the current fiscal year for Federal aid in road building, and thus relieve the uncertainty as to the future of this work, according to a statement made today by Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture.

In discussing the need of Federal action this year, MacDonald pointed out that the last installment of Federal-aid funds, amounting to \$100,000,000, became available July 1 last. When to this is added at least an equal amount of State funds, as required by law, if States are to secure Federal aid, funds will be available sufficient to carry the road construction program forward for the current year. But, as MacDonald points out, the States should know at least a year in advance what funds are to be available in order that plans can be made for future construction.

Of the last apportionment of Federal funds to aid the States in road construction, amounting to \$100,000,000, three-quarters of this sum was derived from the appropriation of 1919 and \$25,000,000 from the original appropriation of 1916. A deduction of \$3,000,000, or 3 per cent of the funds, will be made to provide for the expense of administering the Federal-aid act by the Department of Agriculture. The balance of \$97,000,000 will be divided among the States in proportion to their population, area and mileage of post roads.

### STATES MUST COMPLY.

"Under the law the States are required to enter into formal agreements with the Secretary of Agriculture for the construction upon which this money is to be used before July 1, 1921," said MacDonald. "Any money which is not taken up before that time will be reappropriated among all the States in the same manner in which the original apportionments are made. All previous apportionments have been taken up in the time allotted and it is not likely that the States will fail to absorb this last apportionment. To do so, however, will mean that the States must survey, plan and let contracts for at least \$200,000,000 worth of Federal-aid road construction in the next two years."

MacDonald added that if the States continue to pay more than 50 per cent of the cost, as they have in the past, the cost of the roads constructed with this last apportionment may reach \$250,000,000. In other words, it will be necessary to plan for construction at the rate of at least \$1,000,000,000, and probably more, per year. Some appreciation of what that means may be gleaned from the fact that in 1916 the expenditure for all roads in the United States, constructed under State supervision was only \$80,000,000.

### URGE CONGRESS TO ACT.

"The States have had four years in which to prepare for the expenditure of the large funds which now become available," said MacDonald. "They expect to be able to handle them. What is of greater concern to them at this time is the condition which may result if Federal appropriations are permitted to lapse. The highway departments should know at least a year in advance what funds are to be available in order that plans may be made for future construction. Unless, therefore, further Federal action is taken in the coming year the States will be left in doubt as to the future policy of the Government. Early Congressional action should be taken to prevent a serious set back to the progress of road construction."

MISS LIEOU PING YEH, whose home is in Shanghai, has arrived here on the liner St. Louis. She will study in American schools in the hope that she may become an American teacher. For years she has been saving little by little the money which she hopes will pay her expenses while she is a student here.



## RESULTS SURE IN COAL PIRATE WAR

Will Soon Be Revealed in Slump of Retail Prices, Officials Declare.

"Positive results" in the war on coal profiteers are soon to be revealed in a slump in retail prices of bituminous coal, officials of the Department of Justice announced today. Officials are making steady headway, they said, in vigorous investigations to check the activity of jobbers and other dealers engaged in the practice of re-selling coal shipments at a big profit. In scores of eastern and middle western cities, which figure as the chief distributing points for coal, prosecutions for violations of the Lever act have been arranged. The cases being prepared for trial, it was said, show that re-sales of the same shipments of coal have been primarily responsible for exorbitant prices paid by consumers.

One of the earliest results of the new investigation by the Department has been to cause profiteers to discontinue their operations. Fearing prosecutions, many speculators have disappeared from the market. This is reflected in the steady decrease noted at several Atlantic coast ports. It has been particularly noticeable on coal reaching tidewater from West Virginia and Kentucky. Officials would make no predictions of the extent of the probable decrease in coal costs to the consumer.

## Pay Government Funds To the People and Not To Banks, Urges Meyer

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—The Government's money should be paid to the people and not to the banks, Eugene Meyer, Jr., former managing director of the War Finance Corporation, told the Senate Special Committee on Reconstruction and Production at a hearing held Friday in the Engineers' Club.

By financing its necessities through the sale of Treasury certificates to banks the Government is putting itself under tremendous unnecessary expense which could be dispensed with by expanding the postal savings system, he declared.

The actual direct saving to the Government and the people of the nation through expansion of the postal savings system would amount to at least \$1,000,000,000 a year, Mr. Meyer estimated.

### URGES 4 PER CENT INTEREST.

He urged that as soon as Congress reconvenes the necessary legislation should be passed increasing the interest payments on postal savings to 4 per cent and paid in all post offices and sub-stations throughout the country to receive deposits. By so doing, he said, the people would be encouraged to save and the Government could use the funds for its requirements, instead of issuing certificates at a cost of over 6 1/2 per cent.

Mr. Meyer pointed out that Treasury certificates pay 6 per cent interest to banks, in addition to cash exemption features that ultimately bring the cost of the Government to well over 6 1/2 per cent.

He estimated that if a bill was passed to expand postal savings deposits would increase to such an extent that the entire floating debt of the country, amounting to \$2,500,000,000, could be paid off inside of a year. This floating debt is made up of Treasury certificates, and the Government could redeem them from the funds received at 4 per cent. This redemption would result in a rise in the price of Liberty bonds of from 5 to 10 per cent.

### PAY OFF VICTORY LOAN.

Mr. Meyer expressed the opinion that under proper handling deposits in Postal Savings could be increased to such an extent as to cover in a large part if not all, the Victory Loan, amounting to over \$4,000,000,000, maturing in 1923.

In his testimony, Mr. Meyer gave a detailed account of the causes of the economic conditions. He said in part:

"Immediately after the armistice, the country was to a great extent engaged in war work and war contracts. Commerce was paralyzed. The Government was broken for European nations as well as for our own army and navy, and it was not immediately possible to return from war operations to peace-time work. Construction work could not be resumed at that time of year as climatic conditions prevented. As a result, from the signing of the armistice to late the spring, a great deal of time was lost that might have been profitably used doing work. As spring went on it became apparent that prices were not coming down, labor was getting scarcer and consumption proceeded on such a large scale that shortages developed in goods and materials, and people who had hesitated to buy and produce with their own hands were suddenly and everybody together started in to buy at once.

### CREATING BUYING STAMPEDE.

"That created what I think was the biggest buying stampede ever seen in the history of the world. These conditions continued from June, 1919, and through the summer and well into last spring. As a result prices were higher, labor was short and a large payment was necessary for capital.

"The big problem of the country and the fundamental question is to get the Government savings through increased production of necessities and essential construction work, and reduced consumption of luxuries. This is to be gotten if at all from the great body of the people.

"The surplus of the wealthy classes is going to pay Government expenses so that the surplus for investment has to come from the great mass of people in the country.

"To state my conclusion so as that you may know what is in my mind, my idea is that the way to collect a large amount of saving from the great mass of the people is by extension and expansion of the postal savings system of the United States Government. Savings banks of this country have a total number of depositors amounting to about eleven and a half million. The number of depositors in the postal savings system is 555,000.

"With the proper organization and administration of the Postal Savings System the Government could gain savings deposits within a year sufficient to pay off the floating indebtedness of the United States Government, now approximately \$2,500,000,000, evidenced by Treasury certificates.

"Subsequently with proper handling, deposits could be increased to such an extent as to cover in addition a large part, if not all, of the Victory Loan, amounting to over \$4,000,000,000, which matures in 1923. That is, I firmly believe, that through the Postal Savings the Government could redeem practically of this issue on its maturity in three years.

"While the Government has provided a Federal Reserve system to furnish financial assistance to bankers and industries of the country, not enough has been done by the Government to furnish banking facilities to the great body of the common people. The development and enlargement of the Postal Savings system would fill this purpose.

"The Postal Savings law should be amended to authorize the payment of 4 per cent rate of interest on deposits instead of the 2 per cent as at present, and the number of postoffices authorized to receive deposits should be increased from 8,500, the present number, to all of the 55,000 postoffices, branches, and sub-stations.

"HOARDING MONEY BROUGHT OUT. "Another result of the extension of the Postal Savings System would be to bring forth from hoarders a minimum of \$250,000,000 in coin and currency which would be restored to circulation. A very much higher amount might ultimately be saved, as many of the people, and particularly foreigners who have no faith in banks, would have faith in the Government and deposit their money with it if the interest paid were sufficiently attractive.

"Another important result would be the saving of large amounts of money now going from ignorant people into the hands of swindling promoters of

## EXTEND POSTAL SAVING SYSTEM, URGES MEYER

"The fundamental question of the country is to increase savings."

"The way to increase savings is by extension of the Postal Savings System."

"Pay the people 4 per cent on savings instead of paying 6 per cent to bankers on treasury certificates."

"Encourage thrift among the people."

"Expansion of Postal Savings System will result in paying off entire floating debt of \$2,500,000,000 in one year."

"Proper handling of funds will provide sufficient surplus for redemption of Victory notes, amounting to \$4,000,000,000 on their maturing in 1923."

"Will afford necessary relief to banks and Federal reserve system."

"Will reduce the cost of financing."

"Actual direct savings through extension of postal savings would amount to \$1,000,000,000 annually."

"Help of women is essential."

wildcat schemes. A low estimate of this saving would be \$200,000,000.

"As a result of the inculcation of the spirit of thrift and against extravagant expenditures now being made, a saving of from \$200,000,000 to \$500,000,000 would result. This estimate is based on the Treasury tax collection on so-called luxuries, which indicate a minimum expenditure in this country of \$8,000,000,000 annually for luxuries, and a 5 per cent saving on this amount would be \$400,000,000.

"\$1,000,000,000 SAVINGS."

"The actual direct savings to the Government and the people of the country through extension of the Postal Savings System amount to about \$1,000,000,000. This is a conservative estimate, and in addition every man, woman and child, foreign and native, would have contact with the Government through the post office at home and in business and by becoming a depositor with his Government is bound to take a greater interest in his Government and its affairs, and will be more patriotic and a better American."

"This is one real Americanization plan. It is the best single step which I can think of by way of Americanizing our foreign population."

WOUNDED POILUS NOW ROLLING SANDWICHES

PARIS, Aug. 30.—Rolling sandwich men are the latest innovation in French advertising.

They are both tragic and amusing, being soldiers wounded in the war, who have lost the use of their legs, and only about to move about in chairs which they wheel themselves.

Completely covered by advertising posters, they roll up and down the boulevards and nearby streets.

BLEROT MUST GIVE UP MILLION MADE IN WAR

PARIS, Aug. 30.—Louis Bleriot, the first aviator to cross the English Channel, has been ordered by the French courts to pay immediately \$1,000,000 into the French treasury.

The amount was claimed by the ministry of finance as war profits. M. Bleriot accumulated through manufacturing airplanes and motors during the war.

"This is one real Americanization plan. It is the best single step which I can think of by way of Americanizing our foreign population."

THIS BUTTON is the emblem of a desire for American citizenship. WEAR IT

D. C. SUFFRAGE LEAGUE 1400 Pennsylvania Ave.

Note Special Offer Below

SAFETY FIRST!

There are no open, unguarded moving parts. Look at this machine—

There is nothing under, over or around the machine that could injure the operator or curious little ones.

It is the world's finest washer—washes, wrings, rinses, blues the clothes by electricity. Has been proven for more than ten years

And costs \$50 less than other high grade washers.

Write for free book

Easy Washing "A to Z"

Salmon—1900 Sales Co.

1206 G Street N. W.

Phone Main 7127

A carload of Laundry Queens has just been received. For a limited time you will be able to secure one of these high-grade washers at \$7.00 down; \$8.00 monthly.

Phone Us for a Demonstration.

LAUNDRY QUEEN

There are no open, unguarded moving parts. Look at this machine—

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## SAYS POLITICS KEEPS U.S. WET

Anti-Saloon Counsel Charges Dry Agents Regard Enforcement as "Political Football."

United States judges and district attorneys, corrupted Federal agents and the political campaign are charged by Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel for the Anti-Saloon League, with responsibility for unsatisfactory enforcement of the prohibition law in several States.

In a statement issued Mr. Wheeler alleges that district judges have aided the bootleggers by giving small fines and showing antagonism to the laws; that district attorneys have precluded enforcement by demanding too much evidence, and that State and Federal officers alike are making the prohibition law a political football.

While pointing out the laxity of the law's enforcement, the Anti-Saloon League official says that all will come out right in the end and that present conditions need not alarm friends of prohibition.

"The law enforcement situation," Mr. Wheeler said, "is complicated and the number of Federal judges are a limited number have been corrupted by the liquor dealers, who take long chances in selling liquor."

"A few United States district judges have encouraged the bootleggers by giving small fines and displaying an antagonism to the law in the conduct of the case. Several district attorneys have required evidence of a character before they will act that precludes effective enforcement. We must remember also that we are in the midst of a political campaign."

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## COCKROACHES DRIVE FAMILY FROM HOME

Huntington Man Sues City for \$10,000—Has Gallons of Insects as Evidence.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Aug. 30.—Because myriads of cockroaches from the city dump literally have taken possession of the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Prout, they abandoned it and filed suit against the city for \$10,000 damages. They left their furniture in the house "to the mercy of our new inhabitants," said Prout.

After repeated trips to the city officials and several conferences with Mayor Campbell, Prout tried extermination processes himself. His daily bill for insect powders, which he bought at wholesale prices was \$1, no said.

"Since the city commission refused to take any action in this matter, I have started a collection of cockroaches," he went on. "I am not exaggerating in the least when I say that I have caught at least 100,000 cockroaches a day. And most of them I have safely in twelve half-saloon jars, locked in an iron safe, to be used as evidence when the suit is tried. Some of the roaches are four inches long." Mrs. Prout was obliged to remain awake at night to keep the cockroaches from crawling over her five children while they slept. Prout had to abandon his business to help the household struggle against the roaches.

"My wife is nearly faint with nervous prostration," he said. "I believe I have evidence enough to convince anybody in the world that I am entitled to redress. I am paying for my home, and I couldn't stop payments when I moved out. I have two rents to pay now. Some of my furniture must be burned. All of our winter clothes and bed garments are ruined."

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